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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 41 Berkeley, California, February, 1959 Number 2

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS RESERVOIR AND MOSS BEACH

The field trip was a two-part one. About 50 members and guests gathered for the first part at Crystal Springs Reservoir dam, west of San Mateo, then drove in a caravan along the dirt road northeast of the upper half of the reservoir making several stops to look at the water birds on it. Most outstanding among these were 2 Common Loons, numerous Gadwalls and 3 redheads. At the inlet we walked across to the west side of the San Andreas (Fault Zone) Valley in which the reservoir lies. Here we viewed 4 Common Snipes feeding on the open shore of the lake in the distance but adequately identified through a 'scope, and discussed the identity of a small rusty-colored duck that stayed in the pond weeds. It had an unusual hue but, nevertheless, was undoubtedly a female Ruddy Duck. A short walk up a service road into the dense forest of California laurel, madrone and live-oak produced excellent views of Townsend's Warblers and Hutton's Vireos and glimpses of the many Kinglets and a few Varied Thrushes. Also, studied here were the Giant Redwood Slug with numerous active mites running around on its body, and the stick-and-leaf nests of Dusky-footed Woodrats.

A list of 57 species of birds seen or heard by the leader or reported to him in the Crystal Springs Reservoir area follows, all numbers over 6 being estimates: Common Loon 2, Eared Grebe 2, Pied-billed Grebe 10, Double-crested Cormorant 5, Great Blue Heron 4, Canada Goose 30, Mallard (hundreds), Gadwall 30, Pintail (hundreds), Green-winged Teal 8, Shoveler (hundreds), American Widgeon 1,000, Redhead 3, Ring-necked Duck 4, Canvasback 2, Ruddy Duck 3, Turkey Vulture 3, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Sparrow Hawk 4, California Quail 50, American Coot (thousands), Killdeer 15, Common Snipe 4, California and Ring-billed Gulls (several), Belted Kingfisher 1, Red-Shafted Flicker 6, Black Phoebe 3, Say's Phoebe, Stellar's Jay 3, Scrub Jay 20, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 15, Plain Titmouse 2, Common Bushtit 40, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1 (L. P. Smith)., Brown Creeper 1 (heard only), Wrentit 10 Winter Wren 1, Bewick's Wren 3, Robin 6, Varied Thrush 3 and 1 found dead by G. T. Danz, Hermit Thrush 20, Golden-Crowned Kinglet 50, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10, Water Pipit 20, Hutton's Vireo 3, Audubon's Warbler 8, Townsend's Warbler 8, Red-winged Blackbird 50, Brewer's Blackbird 5, House

Finch (few) Rufous-sided Towhee 2, Brown Towhee 8, Oregon Junco 80, White-crowned Sparrow 20, Golden-crowned Sparrow 30, Song Sparrow 3.

After lunch about 30 of the group re-convened for the second part of the trip—a study of the life between the tide levels on the rocky shore at Moss Beach. Here we were vastly outnumbered by the several college classes there for the same purpose but we found a small area that was not for the moment being trampeled by others and proceded to explore in and around the tide-pool and to turn over sea-covered rocks in it. Although it was a first experience at such study for some (they did not realize that it almost guarantees wet feet) there were those wro had searched before amid slippery seaweed and sharp rocks for the many colorful animals that live there in the intertidal zone and who enjoyed seeing them again. Invertebrate animals noted during the hour or so we searched this small area were: Aggregating Sea-Anemone, Giant Green Sea-Anemone, Hydroids and Polyclad Flatworms of undetermined kinds, a large bright Polychaete worm (unidentified), the minute tube-worm, Dexiospira, the large tube-worm, Serpula, with bright red operculum, several peanut worms and among the Echinoderms: Common Pacific Sea-star, a small unidentified Brittle Star and one small Purple Sea-urchin. Among the molluscs (see *Percy Morris's Field Guide to Shells of the Pacific and Hawaii* for descriptions and scientific names) were many Common Limpets, Shield Limpets, Plate Limpets, Black Turbans, Brown Turbans, Rock Dwelling Thais, 1 Dire Whelk 2 nudibranchs or sea-slugs, which are white with several black ellipses and spots on the back, and another 7-gilled yellow one which remains unidentified in the Mills College collection, many Piddocks, which bore into the soft rocks, and many pea-pod Borers.

Species of birds noted at Moss Beach, where our attention was not particularly directed toward them, or at a lunch stop at El Granada beach a couple of miles south included the following 10 in addition to the list for Crystal Springs making the day's total 67 species: Brandt's Cormorant, Scoter (sp?), Black-bellied Plover, Turnstone (sp?); Glaucous-winged, Western Mew (4) and Heermann's (6) Gull; House Sparrow and Western Meadowlark. On the way home the Cogswells saw a flock of about 40 starlings flying southward along the coast at Devil's Slide ,a few miles north of Moss Beach.

—Howard L. Cogswell, *Leader and Historian*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Miss Edith Frederika Graves, from Colma, Mrs. M. Day Beek: from El Cerrito, Miss Addi Courtright; from Oakland, Mr. John Curtis, Miss Gladys H. Stevens; from San Francisco, Miss Lua Minster, Mr. Reuben M. Schutz.

——Roberta 0. Long, *Membership Chairman*

FEBRUARY MEETING — THIRD THURSDAY

The 493rd regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Thursday, February 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco. (Note change in date. The Library is closed on February 12, Lincoln's birthday.) The library is at Larkin and McAllister. Take No. 5 bus on Market Street.

The speaker will be Mrs. John Cutler-our own Betsy Cutler-who has recently returned from a year's residence in India. While her husband, an exchange professor at the Bengal Engineering College near Calcutta, was busy at his work, Mrs. Cutler photographed the birds and plants of the campus. She speaks charmingly of her experiences and shows interesting bird pictures
All members and guests are invited.

Notes A no-host dinner at the Whitcomb Hotel, 1231 Market Street, near the library, will precede the meeting. Meet in the lobby near the dining room, at 5:45 p.m. Everybody welcome.

—Bonnie Smith, *Program Chairman*

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Piedmont Garden Club presents *The New World Rediscovered,* an all-color motion picture and lecture on wildlife by Laurel Reynolds, for the benefit of Conservation and Bay Area Beautification Fund, Oakland Auditorium Theater, Wednesday, March 4, at 8:30 p.m.

FIELD NOTES: On December 28, at Pythian Road a few miles east of Santa Rosa ,near Highway 12, I observed a White-tailed Kite. In the October, 1953, issue of *The Gull* under *Observations* there appeared, "White-tailed Kite, 3, at Santa Rosa River Lagoon, on August 2.—Wallace I Atherton." The kite I saw in December, 1958, was at a location some fifteen miles east of Santa Rosa River Lagoon and was the first I have observved since the 1953 date.

—Wallace I. Atherton, *Berkeley*

FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

On Saturday, February 14, to RITCHIE RANCH and other areas west of Lodi. Excellent views of Sandhill Cranes, geese, ducks, Gallinules, and White-tailed Kites have been had on previous trips. Meet at 9:30 a. m., in the town of Thornton which is reached by turning south from Walnut Grove on the Sacramento River Road, Route 24. Distance to Thornton about 80 miles. Allow 2½ hours driving time. *Leader*: Phil Smith, LO 9-9451

On Sunday, February 22, to RICHARDSON BAY and other Marin Peninsula points. Many changes have taken place since the society's last visit in February 1951. One important addition is the Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge established through the efforts of the Richardson Bay Foundation and the National Audobon Society. (See *The Gull, September,* 1957). An interesting visit to this refuge area will be made. Belvedere, San Quentin and San Pedro Point (McNear's Beach) will also be visited. The meeting place will be the parking area just north of the Richardson Bay Bridge on U. S. Highway 101 and the time is 9:00 a. m. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends. *Co-leaders*: Elizabeth S. Lennon, EDgewater 2-1641 and Bruce R. Towle, GLenwood 4-2660, of the Marin Audubon Society.

FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 7-10 p. m., in library at Rotary Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland, there will be a meeting of the Field Trips Committee. Purpose is to plan this year's program. All interested persons are invited to attend. Bring suggestions

Note: The March 22 Field Trip to the San Joaquin Valley has been postponed. On this date the Audubon Convention at Asilomar will be in session.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

FLASH

Asilomar Reservations.

GOING, GOING, but NOT QUITE GONE.

Yes, a few beds, chairs and dining room table space still remain. So send in or write TODAY for YOUR reservation (National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4). March 21 to March 24 will be DAYS to remember at the AUDUBON CONVENTION.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042